

Message Text

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ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IGA-02 AID-05 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CU-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /068 W

-----018469 301615Z /40

O R 301530Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3059

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6361

PASS TO PEACE CORPS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS BR CVIS TATT

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DELAY IN ISSUING OFFICIAL VISAS TO
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

1. SUMMARY. CHARGE WAS ASKED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 29, TO DISCUSS ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL VISAS TO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER GROUP ARRIVING IN BRAZIL ON AUGUST 4. MINISTER EDUARDO HOSANNAH, RECENTLY APPOINTED HEAD OF FONMIN CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL DEPARTMENT, PRESENTED CHARGE WITH A DIPLOMATIC NOTE STATING THAT OFFICIAL VISAS COULD NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL CERTAIN CRITERIA COULD BE MET. THE NET RESULT OF NOTE, IN EMBASSY JUDGMENT, IS EFFECTIVELY TO DELAY ARRIVAL OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FOR AT LEAST A MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY CONSULAR OFFICER, WAS ASKED TO FONMIN ON FRIDAY, JULY 29 TO DISCUSS ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL VIASAS TO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. PEACE CORPS GROUP IS PRESENTLY IN MIAMI UNDERGOING FINAL STEP OF TRAINING PRIOR TO PLANNED ARRIVAL IN BRASILIA AUGUST 4. CHIEF OF CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL DIVISION, HOSANNAH, GAVE CHARGE A DIPLOMATIC NOTE STATING THAT ALTHOUGH PROJECTS HAD BEEN APPROVED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FONMIN COULD NOT ISSUE OFFICIAL VISAS. OFFICIAL VISAS WOULD BE ISSUED UPON PRESENTATION, PREFERABLY IN PORTUGUESE, OF CURRICULUM VITAE" OF EACH VOLUNTEER, WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND/OR THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE PROJECTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED.

3. PEACE CORPS LOCAL EMPLOYEES INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THEY HAD BEEN

SUMMONED TO FONMIN DURING THE WEEK TO GIVE A GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL. PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING OFFICIAL VISAS FOR VOLUNTEERS, PEACE CORPS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY SHOULD SEND WITH NOTE A LIST OF VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR ASSIGNED PROJECTS. PEACE CORPS COMPLIED WITH REQUEST AND WAS AWAITING ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL VISAS BASED ON CRITERIA ESTABLISHED IN THE PAST.

4. HOSANNAH INFORMED CHARGE THAT BRAZIL REQUIRED THAT CURRICULUM VITAE BE PROVIDED IN ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND THAT PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL INCLUDES THIS REQUIREMENT. HOSANNAH FURTHER STATED THAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED ENTRY AS TOURISTS (AS HAS HAPPENED IN PAST), PENDING ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL VISAS. HE SEEMED FIRM ON THIS POINT, IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED QUESTIONS.

5. COMMENT. EDUARDO HOSANNAH, HEAD OF CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN IN HIS NEW POSITION FOR THREE WEEKS. PRIOR TO HIS ASSUMPTION OF POSITION, EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY HEAD OF FONMIN'S PASSPORT DIVISION, THEN THE ACTING HEAD OF THE CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL DEPARTMENT, THAT HOSANNAH BELIED IN A VERY STRICT INTERPRETATION OF REGULATIONS AND WAS NOT AN EASY MAN TO DO BUSINESS WITH. THERE IS ALSO A GOOD POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER--EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CONJECTURE--THAT MINISTRY'S ACTION REFLECTS GOB UNEASE OVER ARRIVAL OF ONE HUNDRED YOUNG AMERICANS AT A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE STUDENT UNREST IN BRAZIL
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(SEE SEPTTEL) AND GOB'S EXPRESSED CONCERNS TO AVOID PUBLIC "INCIDENTS" FLOWING FROM US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

6. FONMIN NOTE ASKED FOR SUBMISSION OF CURRICULUM VITAE BY END OF AUGUST. EVEN IMMEDIATE SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED INFORMATION COULD MEAN A SUBSTANTIAL DELAY AS FONMIN IS NOTORIOUSLY SLOW AND INEFFICIENT IN PROCESSING VISAS PARTICULARLY WHEN CONSIDERING THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, IN EXCESS OF NINETY. PEACE SAYS ARRANGEMENTS IN BRAZIL ARE COMPLETED FOR AUGUST 4 ARRIVAL OF THESE VOLUNTEERS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. PEACE CORPS PLEASE PROVIDE CURRICULA VITAE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AT LEAST IN ENGLISH. EMBASSY WILL MAKE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPEDITE REVIEW. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW SOON BIOGRAPHICAL DATA CAN BE EXPECTED AND HOW PEACE CORPS PLANS TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DELAY IN VISA ISSUANCE TO ENABLE US TO EXPLORE THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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